

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00829 071402Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OC-06 CCO-00 /025 W  
-----039642 071404Z /46

P R 071330Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 837  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 829

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, IV, SU, GB  
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MISSION

REF: A. USDOC 6371 B. USDOC 5289 C. USDOC 6497 D. USDOC 6154

1. TWO FIRMS LISTED REF A AND THREE FIRMS LISTED REF B  
ARE SUTIALBE FOR GABONESE MARKET. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF  
POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN  
CABLE TECHNOLOGY.

2. EMBASSY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYONE CAPABLE OF  
SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION. LIBREVILLE AGREES WITH ABIDJAN  
2428. SUGGESTING USDOC ENGAGE A COMPETENT INTERPRETER  
T SEND WITH SEMINAR MISSION. EMBASSY STRONGLY ADVISES  
THAT US FIRMS MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO SEND FRENCH  
SPEAKING REPRESENTATIVES. INTERPRETERS CAN BE HIRED LOCALLY  
FOR 3,000 TO 5,000 CFA PER HOURS (US DOLS 12 TO US DOLS  
20 PER HOUR) FOR CONSECUTIVE TRANSLATION DURING  
BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS. THERE MAY HOWEVER, BE A PROBLEM  
BECAUSE OF HIGHLY TECHNICAL LANGUAGE INVOLVED.

3. ORGANIZATION CHART OF GABONESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE:

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DIRECTOR GENERAL

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
DOMESTIC COMMUNICA- POSTAL SERVICE AND INTL TELE-  
TION NETWORKS FINANCE COMMUNICATIONS

FUNCTIONAL DIRECTOR FUNCTIONAL DIRECTOR FUNCTIONAL

DIRECTOR

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4. GABONESE MAKE MOST EXTENSIVE USE OF FRENCH EQUIPMENT (THOMPSON CSF). MOTOROLA DOMINATES THE MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS MARKET. OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE ITALY, HOLLAND AND GERMANY.

5. LAST BID LET BY GABONESE POSTES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PTT) WAS FOR CABLE IN 1973. MOST RECENT MAJOR PROCUREMENT WAS FOR EQUIPMENT TO MAKE HERTZIAN BEAMS (FAISCEAUX HERTZIENS MULTIPLEX).

6. PRINCIPAL INSPECTORS AND CONTROL INSPECTORS RECEIVED TRAINING IN FRANCE. MAJORITY OF INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE PEOPLE ARE AT APPRENTICESHIP LEVEL OF TRAINING. A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SCHOOL OPENED THIS YEAR IN LIBREVILLE.

7. FUTURE PURCHASE, PROBABLY MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN FUTURE DUE TO FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS, WILL INCLUDE HERTZIAN BEAM EQUIPMENT AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

8. GABONESE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN USING MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

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9. EMBASSY HOPES 3 - 8 ABOVE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF D. TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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